



## **Florida House of Representatives**

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### **Speaker's statement on the passing of Terri Schiavo**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Florida House Speaker Allan Bense issued the following statement today regarding the death of Terri Schiavo:

“Our hearts go out to the family of Terri Schiavo in their time of grief, and Terri remains in our thoughts and prayers as she goes to meet her Lord,” said Speaker Bense. “I hope Terri’s family will be comforted now that she is at rest, and I hope they will be able to find some solace in their memories of her as a young, joyful daughter and sister before these tragic events began to unfold.

“The Florida Legislature explored every option and investigated every possibility in our efforts to form a consensus around legislation that would be both constitutional and helpful. Unfortunately, after extensive, heartfelt and thoughtful debate in the House and Senate, that delicate balance was never achieved.

“Governor Bush began to champion Terri’s cause very early on, and he used every appropriate power at his disposal to try and save her. He deserves the appreciation of those on both sides of this debate for how he has respected both the sanctity of life as well as Florida’s Constitution throughout this situation.

“This issue will now slowly fade from the front pages of our newspapers and the news tickers at the bottoms of our TV screens. However, I hope the concerns it raises remain at the forefront of our public consciousness so that more people will see the need for clearly expressing their desires on end-of-life issues.”

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